

**Vancouver School Board**

**SCHOOL PLAN**

**2013-2014**



It is our collective responsibility as a school district to ensure the highest quality learning experiences for all students, with a focus on student engagement, learning and development in a safe, inclusive environment.

**Vancouver Learning Network**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Vancouver Learning Network delivers online and print education to adult learners and students in grade K -12 by providing a technologically rich, dynamic, and pedagogically sound British Columbia Ministry of Education curriculum by fostering the development of students into socially responsible members of our modern society.

**SCHOOL GOALS**

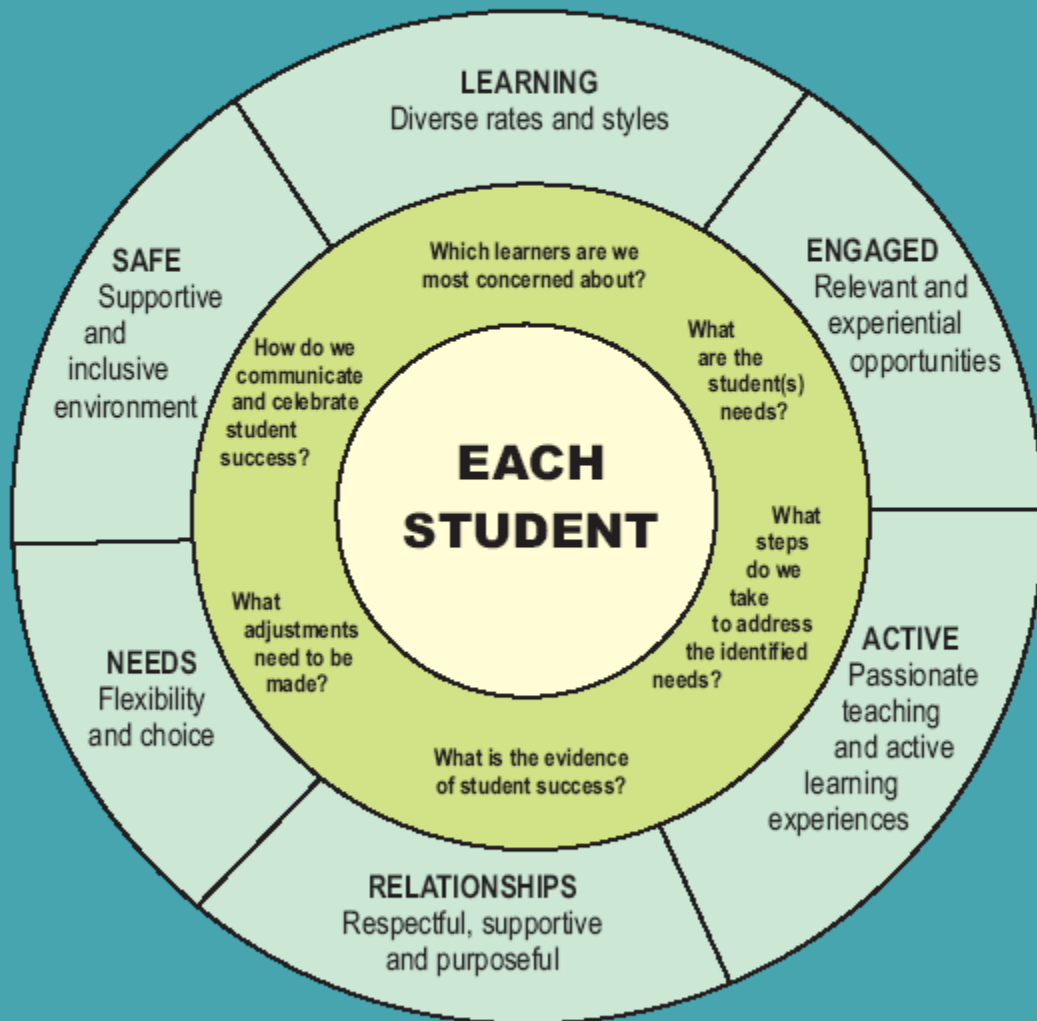
**GOAL: Student Success**

Refine our pedagogical and delivery approaches in order to create a stronger online learning environment in which to support greater student success.

**GOAL: Aboriginal Cultural Enhancement**

To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

# ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING: SUCCESS FOR EACH STUDENT



## SCHOOL COMMUNITY CONTEXT

**What are the demographics of our learning community?**

**Who are our learners?**

**What is our vision of success for learning for each student?**

The Vancouver Learning Network is a distributed learning program which serves approximately eight thousand students per year. The district program, located at John Oliver Secondary School, is a public school program that provides Adult and grade K-12 education to students. The Vancouver Learning Network primarily serves students in the Greater Vancouver area; however, the program is available to students residing anywhere in British Columbia.

The vision of distributed learning is to be a quality, dynamic, and engaging learning environment. Distributed learning takes place when a student is primarily at a distance from the teacher whether the student is at home or connecting to teachers from another learning facility. The Vancouver Learning Network offers both online and print programs. The school emphasizes leading edge technology in learning, and allows students to experience a variety of learning platforms including asynchronous and synchronous lessons. The Vancouver Learning Network is committed to providing flexibility and choice that all students in the province can access.

## REFLECTIONS ON 2012-2013 SCHOOL PLAN

**What was our goal?**

**What steps did we take to address the identified student(s) needs?**

**What was the evidence of success for each student?**

**How did we communicate and celebrate student success?**

**Goal 1:** To improve our pedagogical and administrative requirements to successfully meet a twelve month school plan.

**Our objectives and reflections:**

- To develop course expectations to meet a 12 month school plan and to create effective procedures in dealing with continuous student enrollment in a 12 month offering.
  - Students were asked to develop a course timeline when they began a course. This allowed the teacher to be clear on student goals, while the student was clear on course expectations.
  - Once the student and teacher were clear on the student's goals for course completion, the student's course completion date was recorded in D2L. This allowed teachers, counselors and the student to observe and support their completion plan.
    - However teachers and counselors discovered that having an

entire 12 months to complete a course was too long for most students and that many needed a tighter time frame to work towards. Teachers found themselves having to renegotiate timelines as the year went along.

- Teachers realized that working within a shorter time frame was more beneficial to our students' learning. Also offering extensions for those students that require more time still would allow that flexibility to still be present.
- To communicate with our students, public and schools about our flexible 12 month course offerings.
  - Strived to update our school website with relevant information to continue to improve communication for our students and potential students, as well as their parents and schools.
    - This turned out to be an ongoing task that needs to have specific staff assigned to update information in our ever changing DL school environment.
- To continue to create blended delivery within DL, and collaborate with our broader educational community for the improved engagement of learners.
  - We shared best practices for DL and blended delivery in a community information management system accessible by teachers.
    - With a year of job action it was difficult to engage with our blended DL colleagues which left this objective not as fully realized as we had hoped. It is something we will continue to develop.
  - We continued to discuss and educate schools within the district and region about our DL program. For example, teachers lead presentation/workshops at various professional development conferences.
- To communicate and celebrate student success.
  - Continued to highlight student successes in our individual classes, within the school, and in the greater community.
  - Continued to promote participation in the VLN Graduation Ceremony (full time VLN students only) to celebrate student's successes.
- To engage all members of the school community to ensure student success.
  - Communicated to students and parents in multiple ways including face to face, phone, email, school website, online forums, weblogs, and formal reporting.
  - Parents were encouraged to support their child's learning by communicating with their child's teacher(s) and counselor, visiting their child's online learning environment, participating in school community events, and participating in the VLN PAC.

## **2013-2014 SCHOOL PLAN**

***Based on our assessments and evidence, we are adjusting and refocusing our School Plan to continue to address the needs of the identified learners by:***

**GOAL:** To refine our pedagogical and delivery approaches in order to create a stronger online learning environment in which to support greater student success.

## Objectives:

### What steps are we planning to address the needs of the identified learners, including our Aboriginal learners?

*i.e. What strategies and structures do we believe will lead to student success?*

- Improve communication amongst students, parents and staff to enhance learner success.
- Use a variety of teaching styles allowing for flexibility and choice.
- Continue to make learning relevant, meaningful, experiential, and real world applicable.
- Maintain a student lab with professional software that students can use for a variety of reasons. Some examples are: coming into the school to keep motivated, may not have proper access at home, to get help from the teachers.

### What will be our assessments and evidence of student success?

- Increased student presence within the online classroom.
- Improved communication through different modalities.
- A noticeable increase in student completion of courses, throughout the year, and not just in June.
- Student survey results to show an improvement in the following areas:
  - Currently students want to see an improvement in...
    - The number of times a week students login. Students taking responsibility for their learning.
    - Teachers encouraging students through a variety of means. For example: reminder emails, phone calls home
    - The consistent use of Discussions in the courses.
    - The consistent use of Monthly Self-Assessment Quizzes in each course to keep students on schedule. Some kind of check in required by students throughout the course.
    - Consistent, timely communication between teachers and students/parents
    - Consistent use of communication tools amongst the teachers and counselors with students. For example Skype, FaceTime, email, Twitter
    - The number of times there are school functions like Meet the Teacher Night. Can add other fun school events like movie nights, class fieldtrips.
    - The consistency of how our D2L pages look from course to course to help with ease of navigation, etc.
    - The consistency of having a few links to start off their assignment research in each course.
    - The clarification of assignments. For example video explanations could be added if the assignment is complicated.

**Based on our assessments and evidence, how do we plan to monitor, reflect on and adjust, where necessary, our impact on the learning of each student(s)?**

- D2L allows teachers to see student login details showing them the frequency students are working in the course.
- Some communication examples we will monitor are: personalized emails to external student email addresses; using Skype to reach students after hours; phoning students and parents at home; increasing the number of face to face sessions with students; and providing Elluminate sessions after school hours.
- Tracking the completions throughout the year from our Term Report Cards and completion emails.
- By putting the student suggestions into school-wide practice we should see an improvement when we survey the students again at the end of school year.

**How will we communicate and celebrate student success?**

- Publish award and scholarship recipients drawn from ALL students taking an online VLN course, from any school or jurisdiction in BC.
- Continue to highlight student successes in our classes.
- Continue to promote participation in the VLN Graduation Ceremony (full time VLN students only) to celebrate student's successes.
- Publicize successful student activities and events to continue to build positive image and community beyond school walls.
- Continue to celebrate student success within the school as well as the community by profiling individual and shared accomplishments.

**How will we engage all members of the school community to ensure sustainability of student success?**

- We will communicate to students and parents in multiple ways including face to face, phone, email, school website, online forums, weblogs, and formal reporting.
- Parents will be encouraged to support their child's learning by communicating with their child's teacher(s) and counselor, visiting their child's online learning environment, participating in school community events, and participating in the VLN PAC.
- We will promote an active Student Council.
- In the spirit of highlighting school and student successes we will continue to use an inclusive model of recognizing student achievement.
- The VLN encourages all students, parents, and staff to take on leadership roles in the school. For example, participation in student-led online learning forums, staff are encouraged to share new technology and pedagogy in DL and blended learning, and parent participation in monthly PAC meetings and school events.

- We will continue to discuss and educate schools within the district and region about our DL program. For example, teachers and counselors will continue to lead presentation/workshops at various professional development conferences, and we will continue to visit individual schools to discuss and educate school communities about DL.
- The VLN school goals align with the district's achievement goals for students. Our goals are also consistent with the Ministry of Education's Distributed Learning Agreement and DL Standards.
- We will continue to teach and model appropriate conduct and digital literacy in an online environment (including online discussion forums, email communications and Elluminate sessions, and social media).
- We will continue to provide a safe and respectful environment that reflects personalized learning as well as the diverse individuals and cultures that learn within a DL community.

***Based on our assessments and evidence, we are adjusting and refocusing our School Plan to continue to address the needs of the identified learners by:***

**GOAL: Aboriginal Cultural Enhancement**

To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

**Objectives:**

2013/2014 is the inception year for the Aboriginal cultural enhancement goal. As such, the school will commence planning, collect preliminary data, identify current practices, and access district supports during the 2013/2014 school year.

**Reflections on Current Practice, 2012/2013**

*What steps are we currently taking that build knowledge, acceptance, empathy, and an appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions and cultures among all students?*

Our first steps this coming year will be to:

- Clearly identify, for teachers only, our Aboriginal students within our online and print D2L environment.
- Have Aboriginal students share their ideas on how to build knowledge, acceptance, empathy, and an appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions and cultures among all students in an online environment.
- Have teachers and counselors work together with Aboriginal students to enhance student success.
- Communicate with district Aboriginal supports to provide information on how the VLN can be a viable learning option/resource.

**Vancouver Learning Network**

**Submitted by School Planning Council**

**(Name)**

**Acting Principal**      Jim Stassinopoulos

**Acting Vice-Principal**      Brenda Kvist

**Teacher**      Perry Mathias

**Parent**      Lorraine Graves

**Student**      Jaiden Simmons

**Student**      Adam Santos

**Date**      May 23, 2013

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